

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed August 28, 2006. A Petition for Three Months Extension of Time (with fee) is filed concurrently. Claims 1-6 and 8 through 29 are pending.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the thorough search and review of the application.

1. The specification has been amended to delete the reference to the claim, abstract has been amended to comply with the Examiner's requirements, and the language identified by the Examiner as typographical errors in Claims 1 and 9 has been modified.

2. The rejection of Claims 21-24 based upon Hasegawa et al (GB 2186769) [Official Action, § 6] is respectfully traversed as moot since those claims have now been amended to depend from Claim 1. For completeness, Applicants point out that Claim 1 (and thus Claims 21-24 since they depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1) include at least one feature not disclosed in the Hasegawa document, namely, "at least two electrically heatable zones being delimited by at least one zone boundary which is substantially insulating". This feature was found in Claim 7.

3. The rejection of Claims 1-9, 12, 14, and 18-19 as unpatentable over Hasegawa in view of Smallbone (US 4251316) [Official Action, § 9] is respectfully traversed. Claim 1 has been amended to include the feature of "at least two electrically heatable zones being delimited by at least one zone boundary which is substantially insulating". Since this feature was found in Claim 7 which was not rejected based upon Hasegawa *per se*, Applicants' submit that this feature was not found by the Examiner to be present in the Hasegawa document.

Applicants further submit that Smallbone (US 4,251,316) does not disclose "at least two electrically heatable zones, each electrically heatable zone comprising a substantially transparent electrically conductive coating layer, spaced bus bars" and "a conductive path". Smallbone rather

discloses **one single zone** comprising **one single electrically conductive layer** extending from the first bus bar to the second bus bars. In addition, Smallbone does not disclose a substantially **transparent**, electrically conductive coating layer, but an **opaque silver layer** of a **mirror** possibly coated with **opaque paint protective coatings** at the **back** of a glass substrate.

Finally, since Smallbone does not disclose "at least two zones", Smallbone can not disclose "at least two electrically heatable zones being delimited by at least one zone boundary which is substantially insulating", a feature which was found in Claim 7 and is now in Claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants submit that the combination of these two documents fails to meet the language of the claims and that it would not be obvious for the skilled man in the art at the time the Application was filed to combine the teachings of Hasegawa and Smallbone, and even if it were obvious to combine the teachings, the result would not correspond to the language of the claims. Finally, the Office Action does not suggest any recognition in the art of any reason or need to combine the disclosure of these two documents.

Accordingly, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

4. The rejection of Claims 10, 11 and 13 based on the combination of Hasegawa, Smallbone and WO 00/72635 [Official Action, § 10] is respectfully traversed. In addition to these claims being patentable for depending from Claim 1 (which is submitted to be allowable), it is further submitted that Hasegawa in Figure 11A does not disclose, suggest or make obvious "at least two electrically heatable zones being delimited by at least one zone boundary which is substantially insulating". Therefore, Applicants submit that the combination of these three documents fails to meet the language of the claims and that it would not be obvious for the skilled man in the art at the time the Application was filed to combine the teachings of these three documents, and even if it were obvious to combine the teachings, the result would not correspond to the language of the claims.

Finally, the Office Action does not suggest any recognition in the art of any reason or need to combine the disclosure of these three documents.

Accordingly, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

5. The rejection of Claims 15 and 16 based on the combination of Hasegawa, Smallbone and Spagnoli (US 5466911) [Official Action, § 11] is respectfully traversed. In addition to these claims being patentable for depending from Claim 1 (which is submitted to be allowable), it is further submitted that Spagnoli, similar to Smallbone, discloses only a single zone comprising one single electrically conductive layer extending from the first bus bar to the second bus bar.

Therefore, Applicants submit that the combination of these three documents fails to meet the language of the claims and that it would not be obvious for the skilled man in the art at the time the Application was filed to combine the teachings of these three documents, and even if it were obvious to combine the teachings, the result would not correspond to the language of the claims. Finally, the Office Action does not suggest any recognition in the art of any reason or need to combine the disclosure of these three documents.

Accordingly, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

6. The rejection of Claim 17 based on the combination of five documents [Official Action, § 12] is respectfully traversed. In addition to this claim being patentable for depending (indirectly) from Claim 1 (which is submitted to be allowable), it is further submitted that the two additional documents (McMaster US 3475588) and Marriott (US4119425) do not disclose, suggest or make obvious "at least two electrically heatable zones". Therefore, the combination of these documents fails to disclose, suggest or make obvious the claimed language including "at least two electrically heatable zones being delimited by at least one zone boundary which is substantially insulating".

Even combining these documents, assuming such combination to be proper, does not result in the language of the claim and does not render obvious the claimed invention. Finally, the Office Action does not suggest any recognition in the art of any reason or need to combine the disclosure of these five documents.

Accordingly, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

7. The rejection of Claim 20 based on the combination of Hasegawa in view of Smallbone and WO 00/72635 [Official Action § 13] is respectfully traversed. In addition to this claim being patentable for depending from Claim 1 (which is submitted to be allowable), it is further submitted that the two additional documents do not disclose, suggest or make obvious "at least two electrically heatable zones" and "at least two electrically heatable zones being delimited by at least one zone boundary which is substantially insulating".

Thus even combining these three documents, assuming such combination to be proper, does not result in the language of the claim and does not render obvious the claimed invention. Finally, the Office Action does not suggest any recognition in the art of any reason or need to combine the disclosure of these three documents.

Accordingly, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

8. The rejection of Claims 25-29 based on Hasegawa et al [Official Action § 14] is respectfully traversed. These claims depend (indirectly) from Claim 1. As previously discussed, it is submitted that Claim 1 is patentable because the Hasegawa document do not disclose, suggest or make obvious "at least two electrically heatable zones" and "at least two electrically heatable zones being delimited by at least one zone boundary which is substantially insulating".

It is submitted that nothing in the Hasegawa document suggests the language of the claims and does not render obvious the claimed invention.

Accordingly, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Conclusion

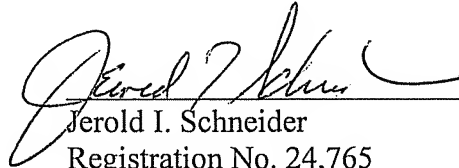
Based on all the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner be of the opinion that an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application to allowance, the Examiner is requested and encouraged to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

AKERMAN SENTERFITT

Date: February 2, 2007

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jerold I. Schneider", is written over a horizontal line.

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